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TDR Date: 12/5/76

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TO: The Secretary Exemptions

FROM: EA - John H. Holdridge

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang

I. SUMMARY

Your meeting with Premier Zhao should be one of the most relaxed of your meetings in Beijing. You will be reiterating to Zhao the President's invitation for him to visit Washington, and setting this invitation in the context of measures to restore momentum to US-China relations, including a meeting of our Joint Economic Committee in Beijing this fall. Zhao will probably brief you on Chinese economic reforms and readjustment measures, and, depending on the timing of the Party's Sixth Plenum, may also brief you on domestic political developments. Zhao will probably attend the Cancun summit and you will want to raise with him North/South issues. You may also wish to raise nuclear issues.

II. SETTING

This meeting will take place after your meeting with Foreign Minister Huang and before your meeting with Vice Chairman Deng. Premier Zhao usually briefs foreign visitors on Chinese domestic developments. He has taken only two trips abroad (to Burma and Thailand in Southeast Asia, and Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh in South Asia) since his appointment as Premier last September.

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III. ISSUES

1. Discuss Steps to Give Bilateral Relations Momentum:

When reiterating the President's invitation to Zhao to visit Washington in early December or shortly after New Year's, place the invitation in the context of measures to restore momentum to the US-China relationship. Other measures you should discuss are the scheduling of cabinet/ministerial visits, including a late summer meeting of the Joint Economic Committee, and the resolution of several outstanding bilateral trade, economic and consular matters. Many of these issues will have already been raised with other Chinese leaders, and Zhao may have a response.

2. Zhao's Attendance at North/South Summit:

You should note Zhao's probable attendance at the Cancun Summit on North/South issues. You may offer to coordinate our views on North/South issues but should expect that Zhao will have little of substance to say. Cancun will represent the first serious Chinese participation in the North/South issue. They can be counted on to lead an attack on Soviet activities in the Third World, but it remains to be seen whether they will go beyond ritualistic support for developing world positions on the substantive economic questions at the summit.

3. Nuclear Cooperation:

You may also wish to discuss our desire for bilateral nuclear cooperation and participation in Chinese nuclear projects, starting with the Guangdong reactor project.

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